

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. today released the following statement after learning of the death of former Congressman Henry J. Hyde:

"I am deeply saddened to learn that Henry J. Hyde has passed. I know I join my colleagues both past and present in thanking this truly remarkable man for his contribution to this country.

"Former Rep. Henry Hyde served his country honorably both in the U.S. Navy during World War II and later as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Hyde was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1975, where he later served as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and the House International Relations Committee.

"During his tenure in Congress, Henry Hyde will most be remembered for leading the impeachment proceedings against former President Bill Clinton and for his staunch opposition to abortion rights, both issues which he and I strongly differed. Despite my opposition, Henry Hyde always took principled stands on issues and legislation and personified what it means to be called 'The Honorable.'

"Henry Hyde had always been considerate to me, generous with his time and extremely helpful to me as a legislator. Not long after I was sworn in as a new member, he acted as a mentor and we became close friends despite our political and ideological differences. I was pleased to work with Henry on 'The Hyde-Jackson Partnership,' the effort to bring a third airport to the Chicagoland region. On this specific issue, I owe Congressman Hyde a debt of gratitude for his leadership, public service, experience and wisdom.

"I will miss my good friend and trusted mentor and my deepest condolences go out to his family," Jackson concluded.